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4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
5 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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8 ERIC GARCIA

9 Plaintiff,

10 v.

11 DIRECTOR OF NURSING, *et al.*,

12 Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-1489-RFB-BNW

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14 **ORDER**

15 **I. INTRODUCTION**

16 Plaintiff Eric Garcia brings this civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to redress
17 constitutional violations that he allegedly suffered while incarcerated at High Desert State Prison.
18 ECF No. 1-1. On December 11, 2024, this Court ordered Garcia to either pay the full \$405 filing
19 fee or file a complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* by February 10, 2025. ECF No. 6.
20 But that deadline expired without payment of the filing fee, a complete *in forma pauperis*
21 application, or other response from Garcia.

22 **II. DISCUSSION**

23 District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of
24 that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case.
25 Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may
26 dismiss an action based on a party’s failure to obey a court order or comply with local rules. See
27 Carey v. King, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply
28 with local rule requiring pro se plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); Malone v. U.S. Postal
Service, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order). In

1 determining whether to dismiss an action on one of these grounds, the Court must consider: (1) the
2 public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the Court's need to manage its docket;
3 (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on
4 their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. See In re Phenylpropanolamine
5 Prod. Liab. Litig., 460 F.3d 1217, 1226 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting Malone, 833 F.2d at 130).

6 The first two factors, the public's interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation and the
7 Court's interest in managing its docket, weigh in favor of dismissal of Garcia's claims. The third
8 factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of dismissal because a presumption of
9 injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in filing a pleading ordered by the court
10 or prosecuting an action. See Anderson v. Air West, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth
11 factor—the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by
12 the factors favoring dismissal.

13 The fifth factor requires the Court to consider whether less drastic alternatives can be used
14 to correct the party's failure that brought about the Court's need to consider dismissal. See Yourish
15 v. Cal. Amplifier, 191 F.3d 983, 992 (9th Cir. 1999) (explaining that considering less drastic
16 alternatives before the party has disobeyed a court order does not satisfy this factor); accord
17 Pagtalunan v. Galaza, 291 F.3d 639, 643 & n.4 (9th Cir. 2002). Courts “need not exhaust every
18 sanction short of dismissal before finally dismissing a case, but must explore possible and
19 meaningful alternatives.” Henderson v. Duncan, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986). Because
20 this Court cannot operate without collecting reasonable fees, and litigation cannot progress without
21 Garcia's compliance with the Court's orders, the only alternative is to enter a second order setting
22 another deadline. But repeating an ignored order often only delays the inevitable and further
23 squanders the Court's finite resources. The circumstances here do not indicate that this case will
24 be an exception. Setting another deadline is not a meaningful alternative given these
25 circumstances. So the fifth factor favors dismissal.

26 III. CONCLUSION

27 Having thoroughly considered these dismissal factors, the Court finds that they weigh in
28 favor of dismissal.

1 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on
2 Eric Garcia's failure to address the matter of the filing fee in compliance with this Court's
3 December 11, 2024, Order. The Clerk of Court is kindly directed to enter judgment accordingly
4 and close this case.

5 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff may move to reopen this case and vacate the
6 judgment by filing a motion for reconsideration of this Order. In this motion, the Plaintiff is
7 required to explain what circumstances delayed him from paying the filing fee or filing the
8 application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and a complaint in compliance with LSR 2-1. If the Court
9 finds there to be good cause or a reasonable explanation therein, the Court will reopen the case
10 and vacate the judgment.

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12 **DATED:** February 27, 2025

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16 **RICHARD F. BOULWARE, II**
17 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**
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